



# ECHO IRELAND

Journal of the  
Irish Radio Transmitters Society  
May/June 2001



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The views expressed in the Newsletter do  
not necessarily represent the views of the  
Society or the Editor

**Deadline for next edition  
July 25th**



## Mayo Win Millennium Club Prize

Members of the Mayo Radio Experimenters Network pictured with IRTS Officers  
at the AGM in Athlone where they were presented with the £1,000 prize as the  
winners of the Millennium Club competition.



Congratulations to Thos EI7FIB and Aidan EI7ENB who both passed their  
Morse tests at the IRTS AGM in Athlone.



Ronnie EI9ED being presented with the  
Folan Shield for advanced home construction by IRTS President Dave EI4BZ.

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## Awards Presented at AGM 2001

Sheila Piper Cup	Colm Ardiffe EI3H
Arup Cup	Ronnie McGrane EI9ED
Collins Cup	George Mc Hugh GI4SRQ
Pat Conway Cup	Rev Padraic J. O'Kelly EI5DA
Folan Shield	Ronnie McGrane EI9ED
Kevin Freeney Trophy	Tony Breathnach EI5EM
The Presidents Cup	Joseph Dillon EI4FV
Ian Morris Memorial Trophy	Thos Caffrey EI 1333/EI7FIB

IRTS DX Trophy	
IOTA 2000 Single Op.	John Desmond EI7GL
Hal Hodgins Trophy	
IOTA 2000 CW	Martin Gillespie EI8GP
Paddy Daly Microphone	
SSB Field Day (Open)	East Cork Group EI7M
IRTS HF Shield	
SSB Field Day (Restricted)	Mayo R.E.N. EI2K
Pete Daly Cup	
CW Field Day (Open)	East Cork Group EI7M
Paddy Smyth Cup	
CW Field Day (Restricted)	Jerry Cahill EI6BT
Thomond Trophy	
VHF/UHF Field Day (Open)	East Cork Group EI7M
VHF Shield	
VHF/UHF Field Day (Restd)	Tipperary A.R.G. EI7TRG

### IRTS 2 Meter Counties Contest Autumn 2000

FM Only	Joe Ryan EI7GY
High Power /P	Paul Kirkby EI6FE/p
Low Power /P	Peter Grant EI4HX/p
High Power (Fixed)	Tommy Hallinan EI2IT
Low Power (Fixed)	Paul Norris EI3ENB
Outside EI	Don GW0PLP

### IRTS 2 Meter Counties Contest Spring 2000

FM only	Brendan Kilmartin EI0CZ
High Power/P	Tipperary ARG EI7TRG/p
Low Power/P	Denis O'Flynn EI6HB/p
High Power (Fixed)	Tommy Hallinan EI2IT
Low Power (Fixed)	Paul Norris EI3ENB
Outside EI	Don GW0PLP

EI7IQ National 6m Shield	Charles Coughlan EI5FK
EI7IQ International 6m Shield	Not awarded

There were no entries for the South Dublin Spring Challenge

## From the Editor.....

### AGM in Athlone

The recent AGM held in Athlone turned out to be one of the best in years despite being held without a rally. Sincere thanks to all of you who took the trouble to attend. It was nice to get so much input from the floor and all opinions and ideas heard will get serious consideration from the new committee.

Lots of dissatisfaction was expressed at the poor service we are getting from the ODTR and this is an issue that will be addressed as soon as possible. We are now five or six years talking about new experimenter regulations and we seem no nearer a conclusion.

### Morse at 5 wpm

CEPT decided back in February that 5 words per minute would be the new standard for a CEPT Class 1 licence. The ODTR have indicated that they will not implement this until the new regulations are in force. This of course is totally unacceptable and we are actively seeking immediate implementation.

### New Committee

Our new committee had its first meeting on June 9<sup>th</sup> and you can see on page 2 who got all the good jobs! Two clubs representatives were appointed and we look forward to a few more. Thanks to the outgoing committee members for all their work during the past year.

### Morse Testing

In recent weeks, a few small problems and misunderstandings have developed with the holding of Morse tests. We will be re-issuing the guidelines shortly but please remember that the basic requirements are two approved testers who cannot test in their own area or test own club members or relatives or friends. Tests should be organised through our Morse test co-ordinator Sean Donelan EI4GK.

### Echo Ireland

This issue of the newsletter is coming to you a little later than planned. Please accept my apologies. It was intended to carry lots more photographs of the AGM but as you can see, space is at a premium. I apologise to Tom EI2AJ and Mark EI7IS for holding over their letters until the next issue.

### Weekly Radio News

Input to the weekly radio news scripted by Mark Wall EI7IS has been disappointing of late with very little items of local news being submitted. Mark's deadline is Tuesday evening at around 2100 as he has to put the script in the mail on Wednesday. Please do what you can to help.

That's about it for now. Enjoy your holidays and do not forget the 2 metres counties contest on the last Sunday in August and the SSB Field Day on the first weekend in September.

73

Dave EI4BZ

What a difference an issue can make!

I was commenting last time about how quiet solar activity had become when at 21:50UTC on April 2<sup>nd</sup> the most powerful Solar Flare ever recorded erupted from near sunspot region 9393.

This X20 class event flare was even more powerful than the well known event back in March 1989 which caused the Power Grid to collapse in Canada. Luckily the sunspot responsible for the flare was on the western limb of the sun and most of the energy was directed away from the Earth, but even so, it produced a fade out on the HF bands for a few hours and caused some spectacular Auroral displays as far south as Spain and even allowed non VHF operators a chance to experience Auroral QSO's on 10m hi!

Sunspot Region 9393 rotated back into view recently but it came as no surprise to scientists as they can now monitor sunspots on the far side of the Sun using a technique called "Helioseismic Holography" with an instrument on the SOHO spacecraft known as a Michelson-Doppler Imager (MDI), which allows them to "see" through the sun.

Astronomers divide Flares into five types –A B C M and X –according to their X-ray energy level, which is measured in mega electron volts (MeV) or in Proton flux.

It's the M and X class flares cause the most disruption with various effects like a SID –sudden ionospheric disturbance; SWF –short wave fadeout; and SSC –sudden storm commencement. Since then we've had a large number of X class flare eruptions producing SID's and keeping the bands rather unsettled, a good indication of a Geomagnetic Storm starting is that you get spectacular openings as the charged particles "energise" the ionosphere until it reaches saturation point and begins to absorb the signals as opposed to reflecting them back down to Earth.

## New DXCC Entity?

Some excitement occurred in March when well known Japanese DX-peditioner Kan, JA1BK and Jacky, F2CW/ZL3CW, were heard operating from Pitcairn Island as VP6BK and VP6CW respectfully. Apparently they were investigating the possibility of Pitcairn becoming a member of the IARU –International Amateur Radio

Union. What will this mean to DX'ers? At the moment Pitcairn is a DXCC Entity as a result of it being a British "Dependency" but if it were to become a Geopolitical Entity as a result of having it's own member society a part of the IARU, then any qualifying islands that lie the required 350km away from the Parent Country with no other islands between them has the potential to become a DXCC Entity in its own right. This is the same way we got the Chesterfield Islands as a new DXCC Entity when New Caledonia formed an Amateur Radio Society, who were accepted into the IARU, making it a Geopolitical Entity as opposed to it being a French overseas "Territory".

The Pitcairn Islands consist of four main islands: Pitcairn itself, the only inhabited one, IOTA OC-044, Oeno Island, also IOTA OC-044 lies about 100km north of Pitcairn, Henderson is the biggest island, IOTA OC-056, and also lies about 100km away from Pitcairn. That leaves us with Ducie Island, IOTA OC-182, which lies at co-ordinates 24 40' south 124 48' north. This C shaped island is 540km East of Pitcairn but most importantly it is approximately 377 km East of Henderson which is the nearest piece of land to it, putting Ducie well outside the minimum 350 km, but before you start to polish the beams and valves in your amplifiers the process of applying for membership and being voted in can take a few months so patience is needed for the newest potential DXCC Entity!

## DXCC's Most Wanted

The ARRL DXCC 2000 Yearbook has just been published and as well as a list of DX'ers on the Honour Roll and those participating in the programme the top 100 "Most Wanted" has been announced and there's not much change from other years.

P5, North Korea still holds pride of place at number one, which given the fact that only two accredited operations took place from here with only 300 QSO's between them, should keep it at the top for a while longer!

Scarborough Reef, BS7H, lies at second place but recent events in the South China Sea suggest that it will stay here for a long time as the Philippine Navy has been "politely" turning back, and on occasion, boarding Chinese fishing ves-

sels operating around the Scarborough Shoal area. Their argument is that the Chinese build up a large fishing fleet to justify the presence of a Chinese Navy vessel for their protection and then proceed to build a "shelter" for supplies. The presence of a gunboat from the Philippine Navy stationed permanently at Scarborough Reef will make it a difficult to mount a major Dxpedition there for a while.

A surprise at number three is Palestine E4, whilst back in the news recently again activity is always present on the bands but I suppose it might be a hard shot from the States or Japan where the vast majority of participation in the DXCC programme comes from.

To finish up the Top 5 at least are the relatively new Entities of the Austral Islands, FO/A, and the Marquesas Islands, FO/M, both part of French Polynesia, again a surprise as there has been, and still is, plenty of activity from both. For those planning their next trip abroad here is the Top 20!

## Rank Prefix Country

- 1 P5 North Korea
  - 2 BS7H Scarborough Reef
  - 3 E4 Palestine
  - 4 FO/A Austral Islands
  - 5 FO/M Marquesas Islands
  - 6 H40 Temotu Province
  - 7 BV9P Pratas Island
  - 8 VU4 Andaman & Nicobar Islands
  - 9 7O Yemen
  - 10 A5 Bhutan
  - 11 3Y Bouvet Island
  - 12 VU7 Lakshadweep Islands
  - 13 VK0/M Macquarie Island
  - 14 E3 Eritrea
  - 15 FR/T Tromelin
  - 16 FR/G Glorioso
  - 17 VP8/S South Sandwich Islands
  - 18 FR/J Juan De Nova & Europa
  - 19 KH5K Kingman Reef
  - 20 VP8/G South Georgia
- With regard to number 20, South Georgia, Mike, GM0HCQ, using the call VP8SGK, over the weekend of March 30/31, did a surprise operation. Mike was based at the British Antarctica Rothera Base as VP8ROT but the ship taken him home had to call to South Georgia en route back to the UK. I heard our own Declan, EI6FR, working him so hope that was an all-time new one for him!

(Continued from page 4)

## Band Reports

Despite the regular Flares keeping the bands unsettled some choice DX was available along with a large number of new Islands for the IOTA programme. The VP8SDX operation from the Falklands was loud on all bands, particularly 10m where they operated primarily on CW. A special mention about John, the bold "Bad Apples", EI7BA who managed to work them on all the nine HF bands from 160m to 10m using that "outdated" mode CW hi!

The group went QRT on May 7 after achieving their target of 30,000+ QSO's. The Mellish Reef gang couldn't hope to satisfy the demand with their limited trip as VK9ML and it was very frustrating to hear the IK's and EA's working them with ease on the higher bands whilst we were left wondering had the rig packed up!

Guess we'll have to wait for the full-blown trip later this year or early next year. No such problems with Pedro handing out Malpelo as HK3JJH/0M or sometimes as HK3JJH/HK0M.

This month's "biggie", Agalega Island came on air as 3B6RF Sunday May 6 after a slight change of plans meant the group couldn't fly to the Islands and had to take a 72 hour boat from the Seychelles instead, so far they've been quite active and easy enough to work despite using a huge listening split frequencies of 20khz or more.

### 10m

Not much to report as I didn't receive any band reports this month and I'm afraid my own log is very sparse!

10m shows worked: 3B6RF, 5R8FU, CQ3E (AF-047), E4/OE1GZA, EM1HO, FK8HC, HK3JJH/HK0M, J28CDX (AF-059), J79CGA, TX4A/MM (en route to Chesterfield), VP8SDX, VU2SBJ (AS-096), and finally ZC4BS, the UK Sovereign Bases on Cyprus.

### 15m

A very embarrassing small log extract for 15m, 3B6RF, TA0/IT9YRE (AS-154), BY1SK, HR4/HR1RMG (NA-060)

### 20m

Likewise for twenty where the vast majority of QSO's were IOTA's: 3B6RF, 3W2KF, 3W7D (AS-157), EA9/DL7AFS, HS0ZCW, JW9XGA, RI0B (AS-156), RU0B (AS-057), V73E (OC-087).

Hopefully next issue I will be spoilt for choice with band reports from you all out there!

A large group of Italians were once more QRV from Mongolia as JT1Y from the end of May and took part in the CQ WW WPX Contest.

Phil, G3SWH, took a well-deserved break from answering the D68C QSL's to generate his own pile-ups as 8Q7WH from the Maldives, using mostly CW from an Icom IC-706 into an R7000 vertical between June 4-11.

It seems that with the Foot and Mouth disease still active in the UK well known Scottish Island activator Andre, GM3VLB, is travelling slightly further afield to satisfy his wanderlust!

First up was Fiji with a trip to the rare IOTA group OC-121 to operate as 3D2LB/P between June 6-8, then onto the main Fiji group OC-016 and finally a trip across the Pacific to Hawaii between June 10-12 for KH6/GM3VLB.

Members of the Bristol Contest Group head for Curacao (SA-006), part of the Netherlands Antilles to use the special call PJ2Y during the IOTA Contest but will use their own calls between July 19-31, QSL this one to a very busy G3SWH.

A slightly different landscape awaited a large multi-national group heading for the ultra-rare IOTA group EU-063, Kong Karl's Land, part of Svalbard for DXCC purposes, even after the IOTA number was expanded to include Svalbards Coastal Islands this is still ranked as the highest most-wanted European IOTA. The group activated JW0PK from Prins Karls Forland Island on all bands and modes from 2m-160m on the dates June 1-9.

Staying north some Belgians were on the Faroe Islands (EU-018) as OY9UR between May 28-June 7. June is certainly a month for small Islands as FP/K4JZ was to be QRV from the rare enough St. Pierre and Miquelon Island during June 14-18.

Fresh from their success from Conway Reef the same group have announced ambitious plans to activate Baker and Howland Islands, KH1, maybe in October this year or a time frame next year.

Well known contestester Dennis, K7BV, planned a major assault for the CQ WW WPX Contest from Fernando de No-

ronha, home of the multi-multi station ZX0F and used the callsign of PV0F, with HC8N active from the Galapagos at the same time it proved to be an interesting battle of the small islands !

On a more leisurely DXpedition the Dutch group "The Low Land DXpedition Team (LLDXT)" have announced their 6<sup>th</sup> Caribbean Trip, starting off from Grenada (J3) between August 2-15 but what's exciting is that it'll be from the Island of Carriacou which is part of the separately IOTA numbered Grenadines (NA-147).

Then it's onto the St. Vincent (J8) island of Bequia from August 16-27.

If you worked these guys from any of their previously trips to VP5, 9Y4, V26, 8Q7, etc then you'd know what skilled operators they all are and how big a signal they have.

Keep an ear out for XU7ABR, a large group of Germans heading for Cambodia, with QSL's going to DL4KQ, scheduled for mid July.

Surprise operation had to be Baldur, DJ6SI, and Tom, DL1QW, appearing from T5 ,Somalia, on June 14 as T5X and T5W !

Baldur had previously operated from the self proclaimed Republic of Somaliland during May 1999 with the call 6O1Z (six Oscar) but despite it having its own stamps and currency its recognised by no other country so did not count for DXCC, it seems that all is in order this time around so hope some of you have worked them for a new one.

When it rains it pours, as Bruce, WD4NGB, said he has the callsign T5DX issued to him for the time frame July 1 2001 and July 1 2002 so hopefully it'll lead to a full-blown international trip to Somalia.

Finally on April 15 a milestone for the IOTA Programme was reached with the 1,000<sup>th</sup> IOTA Reference number being issued to 5R8GT/P for his operation from AF-090, Madagascar Coastal Islands.

With my own score standing at 565 Islands confirmed I have a lot of catching up to do hi!

That's all for this issue, thanks again to the Daily DX for some of the news items and looking forward to receiving some band reports next time!

Keep Listening.

# Report on the 2001 Annual General Meeting

By IRTS Secretary John Corless EI7IQ

## Sharp criticism of regulator at IRTS AGM

The 2001 AGM postponed from its usual April date due to the Foot & Mouth Disease restrictions, was eventually held at Ballykeerin, near Athlone in Co. Westmeath on Saturday May 26<sup>th</sup>. The attendance exceeded fifty members, which was an excellent turnout, given that the meeting was not accompanied by a Rally. These were members who turned out solely for the 69<sup>th</sup> AGM.

It was also the first AGM with Dave Moore, EI4BZ in the chair and he dealt with matters swiftly, a style to which we have become accustomed at Committee meetings.

This AGM was remarkable in that a non-agenda item, raised from the floor, dominated much of the debate.

The current state of play with the ODTR, the Office of The Director of Telecommunications Regulation, the licensing authority for this country, is obviously a matter of great concern amongst the membership if this meeting was anything to go on!

Several members expressed criticism of the performance of the ODTR over the past few years.

Normally non-agenda items would be ruled out of order, but given the nature of the topic and its impact on everyday radio matters, it was well worthy of the time devoted to its discussion.

Criticism was aimed at two areas of licensing matters in particular:

Firstly, that the whole issue of a new license is going on now for a number of years and has met many and varied obstacles. While nobody questioned the validity of any of these obstacles, the feeling of the meeting was, that if this was something that the ODTR wanted to implement, as opposed to any other body promoting it, - it would have happened long ago. It is not a priority item for the ODTR.

The second point was the frequent changing of personnel dealing with routine licensing matters, and resultant delays, which the membership clearly feel is unacceptable. These delays refer to previously routine matters, like upgrades

from B to A licenses; lifting of restrictions on first-year Class A licensees who have met the required criteria and issuing of reciprocal licenses to amateurs from visiting countries who have moved here.

With recent staff changes, the previously normal turn-around period of one week has disappeared with some applications outstanding since last December.

Recent promises to sort all outstanding issues out, appears to have cleared some of the backlog, but not all of it.

The members feel that this is a matter of allocation of resources, and that Amateur radio is very low on the priorities of the ODTR at present.

The view of members present at the meeting was understanding of some of the pressures placed on the ODTR by commercial forces, however, it is the body with which we deal, in all licensing matters, and the meeting felt that Irish amateurs are not getting a fair deal at the moment.

The IRTS has called for a simplification of the application process and requested that the ODTR implement CEPT guidelines on issues like frequency allocations and the 5 wpm Morse requirement.

In his Presidential address Dave Moore EI4BZ, stressed that the difficulties with the ODTR was the main issue facing the incoming Committee and said that the situation was most distressing.

He also expressed concern at the disappearance of many Rallies and said that it looked like there would be no Rally in Dublin in 2001.

He urged clubs to increase their level of activity and cited field day events as a good starting point.

The issue of Contest Rules raised its head again with opinion divided on non-IRTS members participating in affiliated club entries. This issue was discussed last year and the President said that it would be discussed again by the new Committee.

Many members contributed also to a discussion on EMC and Paul Kirkby EI6FE informed the gathering of his intention to encourage dealers to stock filters for telephone, and television interference elimination.

Members also voted in favour of a small increase in membership fees!

This was a good AGM for the Mayo Radio Experimenters Network who walked off IR£1000 richer, capturing the Y2K Club Prize and for Ron McGrane EI9ED who won the Arup Cup for his outstanding services to the amateur community nationally.

Ronnie provides both site and equipment for packet cluster, ATV and voice repeaters.

The President's Cup went to Joe Dillon for the great work he has been doing over many years in the North Dublin area.

Long time news reader Colm Ardifi EI3H was a popular winner of the Sheila Piper Cup for services to the News and Publications.

The Collins Cup went across the Border to George McHugh GI4SRQ for exceptional service to the WAI cause.

Ronnie EI9ED did the double when he was presented with the Folan shield for advanced home construction.

Tony EI5EM won the Kevin Freeney Trophy also for home construction

## Silent Keys

### Fr. Patrick Kelly, EI8CP

It is with regret that we heard of the death of Fr. Patrick Kelly, EI8CP. Fr. Paddy passed away after a long illness.

He was parish priest of Moone Co. Kildare and had served previously in Rathnew Co. Wicklow and in Brittas Bay. Fr. Paddy's kind gentle manner was well liked by all his parishioners.

He will be missed by the Amateur Radio community in Co. Wicklow.

Ar dheis Dé go raibh a h-anam.

Pádraig Ó Meachair EI7GK

### EI2HT Paddy Twomey

We regret to report on the death of Paddy Twomey EI2HT of Loughrea, Co. Galway.

Paddy was a keen CW operator. He is survived by his wife Dolores to whom we extend our deepest sympathy.

## CW and BACK from Joe Cahill EI7IO

This contribution is by way of coming down on the side of retaining Morse.

As the title of the article implies I am an operator who began his radio life on commercial CW and have now in my retirement returned to the mode. Although my main interest as an amateur is in CW, I also enjoy using SSB when conditions allow.

I learned Morse as a commercial operator to the required qualifying speed of 25 wpm. My first job was as a ground radio operator at Shannon Airport. The receive radio station was based near Ennis, built on a marsh in the townland of Ballygierre, removed far enough from the airport itself because of the accompanying antenna farm.

Station callsign was EIP, now known as Shanwick, which may be heard on USB. The aircraft at that time carried a radio operator and all normal radio traffic was processed on CW through EIP when the aircraft was within the control area of Shannon i.e. between 30 degrees West and the Clare coast at which point the aircraft changed over to VHF and the control tower.

The station also had a number of point-to-links, to other aeronautical control centres.

The transmit power was in the region of 10 to 12 kW and one of the transmitters was known as "the stone crusher". It was used by RTE, then known as Radio Eireann, for the lunchtime programmes and was then made available to EIP during the afternoon. It had a low growling type of side tone.

Following two years at EIP I took the boat to Liverpool (Ennis in the early fifties was not exactly a hive of activity) and joined Marconi International Marine as a seagoing radio operator.

Two years with Marconi resulted in some interesting journeys to places such as Australia and Hong Kong after which I decided to come ashore and continue study in electronics while attempting also to work in that field generally.

From this point onwards until retirement some 30 years later I continued to work in electronics at various technical levels and therefore never again had occasion to touch a Morse key.

On retiring I applied for an amateur licence. Luckily I was able to obtain a full licence on the strength of my qualifications and experience. I must admit here that my first thoughts were to use Morse just for the initial qualifying number of contacts and then to abandon it in favour

of sideband.

The experience of those first contacts seemed to awaken my interest in Morse to the extent that, after a period on the ordinary brasspounder, I acquired a twin-paddle. It took about two months to get the hang of the paddle, with much off-air practice until it has become easier to use and is less tiring. The facility of the built-in keyer in modern rigs makes it a relatively straightforward task.

I can manage reasonable 20 plus on most occasions despite some stutters from advancing years.

I have outlined all of the foregoing as an attempt to influence younger members in the hobby so that they in turn might retain this fascinating code.

I would hope that Morse is never scrapped totally. Even 5 wpm might be sufficient to awaken an interest in new members. But of course if you can learn 5 then 12 is easy so let's not give it up too easily.

Although in my time I have used equipment ranging from high-power troposcatter to microwave multiplex systems I can honestly say that one of the greatest kicks I have had in communications was late one night last summer when I had a QSO with an American amateur in his hotel room in London on his way back after a holiday in Europe. He had 1 watt CW and had a long wire hanging down from his bedroom window.

He had passed through Fermoy the previous day but couldn't raise anyone on the Cork repeater

My grandchildren visit me occasionally and of course have many questions as to what I am up to here in this corner. They range in age from about 2 to 15 years.

The black box rig and the microphone do not impress as I suppose compared to their mobile phones it's not exactly earth shattering. The computer hardly raises a comment.

What does cause a WOW however is the sound of the Morse signals and my replies using the paddle.

"Do you understand what he's saying?" ..... "Cool!"

I will end this missive by simply pointing out what would have been denied to all those enthusiastic CW operators now in the hobby if they had never learnt Morse. Maybe there is a way to encourage people who might be fully licensed on sideband to have a crack at CW but human nature being what it is I would be doubtful.

73's de Joe Cahill      djc5@indigo.ie

## 4 Metre Activity Evening

Calling all 4 meter operators. In the interests of generating some activity on the 4 meter band there will be a call in on 70.2625 MHz. on the first Tuesday of every month.

The first 4 metre activity evening starts at 8.00pm on the 3rd July.

Whether you have AM/FM/SSB gear, use vertical or horizontal polarization, give a call in.

If there is interest, we can also look at 4 metre/ 6 metre cross band.

Even if you do not have access to 4 meter transmitting gear, SWL reports would be most welcome, e-mail EI3IX at joe\_fadden@yahoo.com

## 2 Metre SSB activity

Anyone interested in 2 meter SSB activity?

If so there is a call in every week after the Sunday 11 o'clock I.R.T.S. news, on 144.300MHz.

I'm told a number of operators monitor and call on this frequency but never hear anyone.

It does not matter whether your antenna is horizontal or vertical, just give a call and let's try and get some activity going on this mode.

The squares table is up and running again this year, anyone working DX on any of the VHF/UHF bands please forward their totals for inclusion on this table. The table will be published in each edition of the newsletter and anyone looking for the up to date scores will find them on EI7GL's web page <http://www.qsl.net/ei7gl>  
Thanks to John for including the table on his homepage.

Joe Fadden EI3IX  
IRTS VHF Manager

## Slievenamon Trophy For 70cm Activity

Donated by the Tipperary A.R.G., this trophy is for FM activity on the 70cm band and will be competed for over the Sundays in July.

Only simplex contacts made on FM between 433.400 and 434.400 MHz will count.

One point for each QSO multiplied by the number of counties worked.

Details from joe\_fadden@yahoo.com

# What are they on about now?

A look at the workings of the IRTS committee  
with John Corless EI7IQ

Two meetings of the IRTS Committee have taken place since the last issue of Echo Ireland.

The gathering in Athlone on Saturday April 21<sup>st</sup> dealt with the issue of the postponed AGM and put arrangements in place for the rescheduled event, which went ahead as planned and is detailed elsewhere.

## Worked All Ireland

Noel Mulvihill EI6HW, who looks after the distribution of books for Worked All Ireland, told the grouping that book sales had topped the 350 mark with a considerable international dimension. Noel who acts as net controller on 7.068 MHz.- the most-popular WAI frequency, was presented with the *Ultimate Award* for his endeavours, working over 1400 squares.

It is a fair achievement when all is said and done!

The meeting extended congratulations to Donegal based, Martin Gillespie EI8GP, and Brian Russell G0NSL the Merseyside QRPer, who had achieved the distinction of working over 1000 squares each.

## Concern

Concern was expressed at the slow progress of licensing matters and the Committee was anxious that a meeting would be held with the ODTR, who handle regulatory matters in Ireland, in advance of the Society AGM.

A widely held belief was that the membership would be anxious to know what was happening on a number of fronts, and a meeting between both sides would be beneficial.

No meeting was held however, and this concern proved justified as it turned out!

## Jobs for the boys

The first meeting of the new committee, the one where the jobs are given out, passed off without bloodshed, which is always welcome.

His Excellency, The President, Dave Moore, EI4BZ, declared at the outset of the June 9<sup>th</sup>, meeting that he wanted the workload shared evenly, (which roughly translated, meant finding people to take on many of the jobs normally done, very efficiently too, by Sean Donelan, EI4GK!)

As a result, AREN has a new Coordinator in Steve Wright EI5DD.

Steve has a long history of excellent service in this area and was an obvious choice.

The fact that he was absent from the meeting at which he was appointed is purely co-incidental, I assure you, as people selected for positions must be present when the appointments are made, or have indicated in writing in advance, that they are willing to take on the responsibility.

Steve will appoint his own sub-committee and report to the September meeting with his proposals.

The Society has again managed to recruit a PRO, the filling of a void of a few years' standing!

John McDonnell EI6IR, having made a name for himself as Contest Manager for the last three years, takes on the role. If this was an attempt to remove him from the Contest Manager's chair, it failed, because he was returned unopposed to this position also!

John McCarthy EI8JA joins Sean Nolan, EI7CD and Peter Grant EI4HX on the Awards Committee, which Peter will again chair.

These are the people to impress if you want silverware for your collection, at the next AGM!

Brendan DeHora, EI3GV, joins Treasurer Sean Donelan, EI4GK as his assistant, and Thomas Caffrey, EI7FIB, takes over on the IARU Monitoring Service.

Terry Ebdon EI9IW, takes on Euro Com duties and Pdraig Ó Meachair EI7GK is the new Bainisteoir na Ghaeilge.

The full list of jobs for the boys appears elsewhere in this issue.

## Mayo 2002

The Mayo Radio Experimenters Network, have confirmed the date for their first Rally as March 3rd 2002, which coincides with their hosting of the IRTS AGM.

The Dinner Dance will be held on the Saturday night March 2<sup>nd</sup> in Knock.

## Items for inclusion....

Many readers will have heard the words "Items for inclusion in the radio

news...." at the end of the weekly bulletin, but then again maybe you haven't! Apparently items for inclusion in the radio news are becoming a scarce commodity, according to Mark Wall EI7IS, the Radio News Editor.

Mark told the June gathering that the supply of items from Clubs had dropped somewhat, so if you are a club PRO, (or even if you aren't) please contact Mark with any news or happenings from your area.

## Non-members on contest teams

The issue of non IRTS members participating in affiliated club entries in IRTS contests, raised again at this year's AGM (see report elsewhere,) - was debated for some time at the June meeting. This was also debated at last year's AGM and at a Committee meeting in between; - and guess what, - it remains unresolved!

The President was anxious that there would be unanimity on the matter, but after a few minutes, it became quite clear that this was not the case!

The last time this was debated at Committee, opinion was divided evenly.

This is one of the most controversial issues around at the moment, with strongly held views on both sides.

The matter remains as it was for the moment at least, but is certain to be revisited in the autumn.

Staying with Contest matters, the Manager, John McDonnell, EI6IR, told the June gathering that entries for the Spring 2m Counties Contest were down somewhat on previous years, due to the enforced absence (for FMD reasons) of portable entries.

(See the contest column for the results)

Battle re-commences on Saturday September 8<sup>th</sup> when the next meeting of the IRTS Committee is due to be held in the Shamrock Lodge Hotel in Athlone with an 11 a.m. kickoff.

Have a good summer.  
JC.



## Tom Cocking EI4DQ

### Worked All Continents on 144MHz



Tom EI4DQ was a very active terrestrial VHF DXer for many years with a special interest in Meteor Scatter operation on 2 Metres.

Running out of challenges on this mode, he turned towards EME (Moonbounce) where signals are reflected off the moon. Again Tom was very successful and quickly made a name for himself in this very specialized area.

He quickly moved up the ladder, due his excellent homebrew skills, continuously improving his station with changes to aerials, pre-amps and amplifiers.

Anyone who has been to the Trabolgan Holiday Centre in East Cork will have noticed Tom's station overlooking the road on the left hand side at the top of the hill, about 3 miles south of Midleton town.

Eventually, having worked all else that was available on 144 MHz, Tom needed VK or ZL to complete his 'Worked All Continents'.

After several years of listening, Tom only ever heard one ZL station when he was on Tom's setting moon about 5 degrees over the horizon.

He heard him very well but polarity changed and the QSO was lost.

At that time, Tom was using single polarity aerials, 4 x 15 element horizontal Yagis. He is convinced he would have worked him had he been using his present dual polarity aerials. He was the only ZL station active on 2 Metres E-M-E and now appears to be QRT.

So what about VK?

While Tom's QTH is excellent in all other directions, to the East the moon is not visible until it is at 19 degrees, at which point the VKs are losing it at their moonset.

Tom had almost given up in despair when one night he noticed that the moon was visible through a gap in the hills on a very northerly rise.

He found he could work it between 70 and 80 degree at about 10 degrees elevation.

No need to move house after all!

Now all he needed was a VK station who would be willing to try a sked in that time frame.

An email to the moonnet resulted in a positive reply from Des Clarke VK3CY.

Skeds were made to suit Tom's very limited window on the moon which resulted in some very strange operating times.

But then, nothing worthwhile is easy.

#### Success at last.

After many months and frustrating failures, a sked was made for April the 11<sup>th</sup> 2000 at 1100 utc.

At 1110 Tom heard the VK3CY signal very weakly giving him "O" reports, which confirmed that he had received Tom's callsign.

All Tom needed now was to receive call-sign info from him and then at 11:20utc he heard his signal peaking out of the

noise, EI4DQ VK3CY EI4DQ VK3CY 0 0 0 0.

Tom then started to send "RO" reports to Des and on the next period he received his RRRRR reports to complete the QSO.

During this sked Tom was transmitting and receiving in horizontal polarity.

They finished the sked at 11:30utc.

Tom had a moon elevation of about 12 degrees and Des had just 6 degrees of moon left before set.

Tom rates that as one of the best DX QSO's he has ever had on 14MHz EME.

VK3CY's locator is QF13TO, a distance of 17245.1 Kilometres.

Tom's aerials were homemade dual polarity DJ9BV op 2/4 x 15 element with 7/8 phasing harness and homemade MGF1302 cavity Pre-amps.

The Tx line was 7/8" heliax and the Rx line was 5/8 heliax.

For further information on Moonbounce, have a look at an article by EI4DQ on the EI7GL website.

Tom has his own website and can be contacted by email at ei4dq@eircom.net.

G

**DES CLARKE**

3 P. O. Box 92  
WEDDERBURN Vic  
AUSTRALIA 3518  
Phone: (054) 94 3156

**VK3 CY**

144 EME

CFM QSO WITH... **EI4DQ**

ITU 59  
ZONE 30  
QF13TO

EMDRG

PSE TKS QSL

DAY	MTH	YEAR	TIME (UTC)	FREQUENCY	MODE	R	S	T
10	4	00	1100	144.094	CW	0	0	

# Treasurers Report for the year to 31<sup>st</sup> December 2000

To the Annual General Meeting  
Lakeview Hotel, Athlone 26<sup>th</sup> May 2001

I have pleasure in presenting the year 2000 accounts for approval.

The Society's accounts show a deficit of £612 for the year and this amount has been deducted from the General Reserve. No capital expenditure was undertaken during the year and all Capital equipment in the ownership of the Society has now been fully depreciated.

Despite the loss for the year 2000, the Society is still in a strong financial position and has reasonable levels of reserves. However, cost pressures in a number of areas have begun to emerge and the likelihood is that in 2001 and subsequent years, the year-end accounts will record escalating losses. The incoming Committee will need to address this issue and I will be recommending an increase in subscriptions in the year 2002.

Although the workload involved in maintaining the Society's accounts is considerable, I have benefited significantly from the computerised records developed and maintained by Joe Ryan EI7GY. A system has evolved around these records that has ensured that few difficulties have arisen for the Treasurer during the year. Having held the office of Treasurer for 9 years, I have advised the President that should the Committee wish me to do so, I will serve for one more year – but no more!

My thanks to all those members who respond promptly to the request to pay subscriptions. To those who don't, I say thanks for paying up but please remember that somebody has to send out all those reminders.

Signed:

Sean Donelan EI4GK  
Treasurer.

## IRISH RADIO TRANSMITTERS SOCIETY

### Balance Sheet as at 31<sup>st</sup> December 2000

	1999	1999	2000	2000
<b><u>FIXED ASSETS</u></b>				
Equipment, etc.		£172		Nil
Prize Bonds		£70		£70
Shares – Irish Permanent plc		£594		£594
<b><u>CURRENT ASSETS</u></b>				
Stock for Re-Sale	£5,735		£3,408	
Cash on Deposit	£12,738		£13,044	
Cash at Bank	£4,609		£7,190	
	-----		-----	
		£23,082		£23,642
		-----		-----
<b><u>Surplus of Assets over Liabilities</u></b>		£23,918		£24,306
		=====		=====
<b>Represented by:</b>				
General Reserve		£22,790		£22,178
IARU Conference Reserve		£1,128		£2,128
		-----		-----
		£23,918		£24,306
		=====		=====

# IRISH RADIO TRANSMITTERS SOCIETY

## Income and Expenditure Account for the Year to 31<sup>st</sup> December 2000

<u>Income</u>	<u>1999</u>	<u>2000</u>
Subscriptions	£14,758	£15,098
Donations	£18	£50
Advertising	£425	£689
Book Sales, etc.	(£534)	(£604)
Investment Income	£338	£378
Sundry Income	£359	£306
	-----	-----
	£15,364	£15,917
	=====	=====

## Expenditure

Newsletter:Printing	£3,850	£4,429
Postage	£2,465	£2,386
Postage & Telephone	£555	£1,176
Yearbook:Printing	£1,500	£1,550
Radio News	£307	£331
QSL Service:Outwards	£550	£468
Inwards	£602	£828
Stationery & Admin Expenses	£673	£1,646
P.O. Box Rental	£70	£70
Insurance	£271	£294
Committee Meetings	£211	£475
AGM Costs	£80	£60
IARU Dues	£566	£734
EIORTS Licence Fee	----	£16
Depreciation	£341	£172
Conference Reserve	£1,000	£1,000
Bank Charges	£183	£161
Trophies (Counties Contests, etc)	£280	£420
Bad Debt	£108	-----
Web-Site Costs	£412	£313
Promotional Material	£1,529	-----
Donation:Mayo Repeater	£500	-----
Computer Software	£299	-----
Miscellaneous	£125	-----
	-----	-----
	£16,477	£16,529
<b>Surplus/Deficit for Year</b>	(£1,113)	(£612)
	£15,364	£15,917
	=====	=====

## **Dublin ARC Disbursements Account**

Funds Received Year to 31 <sup>st</sup> December 2000	£691
Disbursements made Year to 31 <sup>st</sup> December 2000	£500
	-----
Balance remaining for Disbursement at 31 <sup>st</sup> December 2000	£191
	=====

# IRISH RADIO TRANSMITTERS SOCIETY

Notes on, and forming part of the Accounts for the Year ended 31<sup>st</sup> December 2000

## 1. Income

Subscriptions and Income received during the year were credited to the Income and Expenditure Account.

Subscriptions covering any period after 31<sup>st</sup> December 2000 were not treated as prepaid. No provision was made for Subscriptions in arrears.

## 2. General Reserve

Balance at 1 <sup>st</sup> January 2000	£22,790
Less: Deficit for Year	£612

Balance at 31 <sup>st</sup> December 2000	£22,178
	=====

## 3. Equipment, etc

	Office Equipment	Exhibition Equipment	Trailer	Total
Cost at 1 <sup>st</sup> Jan 2000	£814	£554	£854	£2,222
Purchases Year 2000	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
	-----	-----	-----	-----
	£814	£554	£854	£2,222
Depreciation at 1 <sup>st</sup> Jan. 2000	£643	£554	£854	£2,051
	-----	-----	-----	-----
	£171	Nil	Nil	£171
Depreciation for Year 2000	£171	Nil	Nil	£171
	-----	-----	-----	-----
Net Book Value on 31 <sup>st</sup> December 2000	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
	=====	=====	=====	=====

Obsolete Office Equipment (Cost £4,736) that had been fully depreciated was disposed of during the year.

## 4. Shares – Irish Life and Permanent plc

Shares in Irish Life and Permanent plc are shown in the Balance Sheet at issue price (£1.80 per share). Market Value on 6<sup>th</sup> March 2001 was £3,429 (£10.39 per share).

## 5. Cash on Deposit

	1999	2000
Irish Permanent plc	£12,866	£13,044
	=====	=====

## 6 IARU Conference Reserve

	1999	2000
Balance at 1 <sup>st</sup> January 2000	£2,595	£1,128
Transfer from Income and Expenditure Account	£1,000	£1,000
	-----	-----
	£3,595	£2,128
Expenditure	£2,467	Nil
	-----	-----
Balance at 31 <sup>st</sup> Dec. 2000	£1,128	£2,128
	=====	=====

# IRTS Committee Report

## Presented to the AGM on May 26th in Athlone.

### Committee Meetings

Nine Committee meetings were held during the year. This is an increase of one, - the April 2001 meeting would normally be held after the AGM, however, since the AGM was not held in April, of this year the Committee meeting went ahead. As usual, the meetings were held in Athlone. Long-term policy issues dominate committee meetings, and considerable time was spent during the year past, discussing the many changes that are happening in our hobby.

### Membership

Total membership fell slightly in 2000. Following a very significant increase in membership the previous year - the result of a mail shot to almost 700 non-members, - some drop in numbers was to be expected. It is satisfying to see that membership is still above the level it was at for most of the 1990s. In 2000, 57 new members joined the society, and 23 re-joined. The table at the end of this report shows membership trends in recent years.

### Licence Statistics:

At the end of November, there were 1,726 current radio experimenter licences, compared with 1,693 at the same time in 1999. 29 people took out experimenter licences for the first time and 17 others renewed licences that had lapsed, a total of 46 additional licences. However 13 licences lapsed during the year (of which we are aware that 4 were held by silent keys), hence the net increase in licences of 33. This is a big improvement on previous years when very small net increases in license numbers were recorded.

Of the 29 who took out licences for the first time, 8 received 'A' licences and 18 received 'B' licences. In addition, 7 'B' licensees upgraded to an 'A' licence. 9 of the new licensees were SWL members of IRTS when they received their calls.

### Rallies

A couple of years ago, the Society appointed a Rally Co-ordinator in an effort to put rally dates on a more organised basis. Unfortunately as the numbers of Rallies held is dropping somewhat dra-

matically it has proven very easy to co-ordinate them. The Society needs to address this problem, as the numbers were declining rapidly prior to the foot & mouth scare. To date only two groups have contacted the Rally Co-ordinator, the Cork Radio Club and the Mayo Radio Experimenters Network.

### A.R.E.N.

The Amateur Radio Emergency Network had a quiet year. National AREN Coordinator, Liam O'Brien, EI7FE has indicated his unwillingness to continue in the post and the new Committee will be examining the situation closely, to identify how to best address the issues involved.

### Clubs

The Society is delighted that there are currently 36 radio clubs affiliated to the Society, with varying levels of activity and membership.

The Society recognises the valuable contribution made to the hobby by these clubs on a number of fronts. Clubs are entitled to send a Representative to IRTS Committee meetings and over the past year the number of Club Reps turning up at meetings has increased. Clubs are reminded that the name of their Representative should be forwarded to the Secretary of the IRTS as soon as possible after the AGM, for inclusion in mailings and invitations to meetings.

### EMC

The Committee has addressed the issue of EMC in some detail over the past year and intends to devote more time and resources to this topic over the next year. Paul Kirkby EI6FE, the IRTS EMC Manager, has written a number of articles on EMC which have been published in Echo Ireland and will be available on the website soon. The Society is working closely with other national societies, in what has become a huge issue worldwide.

### Publications

Dave Moore EI4BZ, edits the IRTS magazine Echo Ireland. Six issues are printed annually, and distributed to members worldwide.

The Society published a colour brochure in 1999, introducing the hobby to new-

comers, copies of which are available to clubs for public events, rallies etc.

### Website

Leslie Long, EI4DU maintains the IRTS Web Pages, from material supplied by the members.

The site provides a wide range of information about the Society and the hobby in general, in this country and received a makeover during the year. A number of small technical problems brought down the site briefly during the year, but these are all resolved now.

The Website is now in it's fourth year and the number of visitors continues to increase.

The site includes online application facilities for ordinary and club membership, as well as AREN and Club information.

### External Awards

A number of foreign Society's require that the IRTS External Awards Manager certify Award applications submitted by EI amateurs. The ARRL Worked All States Award is one of the more prominent Awards that fall into this category. The Society is happy to provide this service to its members but it must be said that only a handful of certifications was provided during the year.

### Morse Testing

Morse Testing sessions were scheduled at almost all Rallies held during the year. In addition, special arrangements were made to facilitate applicants who were unable to attend the Rallies.

During the course of the year a total of 16 applicants successfully completed Morse Tests held under the auspices of the IRTS. It should be noted that the Marine Radio Surveyors also conducted a number of Morse Tests during the year. No information is available on the number successful applicants taking this route.

### I.A.R.U.

IRTS is a member of the International Amateur Radio Union, Region 1. This comprises the countries of Europe, Africa and the Middle East. The Region 1 conference is held every third year - the most recent being in 1999. In the intervening years, contact is maintained be-

tween IARU management and individual Societies via e-mail and Newsletter. There are a number of pressing issues on the IARU agenda at the moment, most of which relate to the next World Radio Conference scheduled for 2003. There is enormous pressure on available radio spectrum from commercial interests and the task of protecting current amateur allocations is an onerous one. The IRTS takes an active part in supporting the efforts of the IARU on our behalf.

### **Eurocomm**

In recent years the activities of the European Union have impinged on virtually every area of daily life. Amateur Radio is no exception. Eurocomm is a Working Group of EU Societies charged with the task of monitoring the work of the EU where it relates to, or impinges on, Amateur Radio. Much of the work is technical and very detailed but is geared towards ensuring that in the drafting of EU Directives and Regulations, the interests of the Radio Amateur are considered and, if possible, protected. The IRTS is not a member of the Working Group but is kept informed of its activities and contributes comments and suggestions from time to time.

### **Radio News**

Mark Wall EI7IS took over as Editor of the Radio News last October, and the response has been excellent. Although the amount of input to the news has seen some variation there has never been any real problems making up two pages of news for every Sunday. In fact the amount of news input received on some weeks was more than could be used, and excess items were carried forward to the following week.

Co-ordination between Mark and the others involved in the news has been good with prompt and timely feedback from the newsreaders around the country. Good communication is also in place between Mark and the committee members of the IRTS.

Response from the various clubs around the country has been good as well as the input from many individuals both here in EI and some from abroad.

The radio news was broadcast weekly throughout the past year and we thank the various newsreaders that do the job week in, week out, both on HF and VHF.

Nuacht na Gaeilge is now transmitted from Co Wicklow each Sunday morning

at 11.30 am call- ins remain steady each week.

### **Book Sales**

Peter Grant EI4HX, operates the Book sales Department of the IRTS and attends all rallies. The bookstand also serves as an information source for the Society and accepts renewals and new members and of course outgoing QSL Cards. Plans are underway to publish the Society catalogue on the website.

The Committee wishes to thank the rally organisers for their co-operation and help.

### **W.A.I.**

The Worked All Ireland Award Scheme continues to grow mainly on forty metres with activity now encouraged on two metres SSB.

Noel Mulvihill, EI6HW handles the book distribution and the award manager is Tom Rea, EI2GP.

Interest overseas is also increasing with book sales to Japan, Brazil and other countries.

### **W.E.I.C.**

The Worked EI Counties Award is available to licensed amateurs worldwide who succeed in working a minimum of twenty of the 26 counties in the Republic of Ireland. The Award is also available to SWLs on a 'heard' basis. Award applications must be backed up by the appropriate QSL cards. This has proved a difficult Award to achieve, as evidenced by the fact that only 68 have been issued since the Award was first instituted in 1987. Five new Awards were issued in 2000. A list of Award holders may be viewed on page 13 of Year Book 2000.

### **Contests**

Contesting in Ireland continues to prove popular with domestic and international contests well supported.

On the domestic front activity has increased over the past year, as has observance of the rules! On the international front the IOTA Contest is the most popular with EI's with the CQ World-wide contests following closely.

### **QSL Cards**

Hugh O'Donnell EI2HI took over from Bill Mitchell EI5GQ as Outgoing QSL Manager last year. Members sending cards to Hugh are reminded of the need

to print the Call sign on the top right hand side of the reverse of the cards and to sort them into call sign order before despatch. This saves Hugh time, and ensures that your cards are despatched quicker.

During 2000 the Incoming QSL Bureau continued to receive the usual high volume of cards from abroad. Packets and parcels were received from as many as 32 different IARU societies. Some of these parcels contained over 4000 cards. Mail is collected each week, from the PO Box by Michael McNamara, EI2CL, who sorts the cards into callsign order. The bags of cards are then collected by Pat Fitzpatrick EI2HX and distributed to the team of QSL sub-managers. Michael writes a "Reading the Mail" column, which is published in Echo Ireland. The intention is to provide members with regular and some detailed information on Incoming QSL Bureau activity.

### **O.D.T.R.**

The IRTS works closely with The Office of The Director of Telecommunications Regulation, (the ODTR), the licensing body for amateur radio experimenting in Ireland.

Meetings are held between both organisations, and in addition the IRTS is in regular contact with the ODTR, dealing with various matters on behalf members. Recent delays in dealing with licenses have been addressed by the Society and a resumption of the normal speedy and efficient service from the ODTR is expected.

The Committee is currently in negotiation with the ODTR regarding a new Radio Experimenters License and proposals for the IRTS to host revised theory examinations on behalf of the ODTR.

### **Members Involvement**

The committee wishes to thank all of the members for your membership, and for your help throughout the year. Special thanks goes to the group of volunteers, who are not committee members, who help to carry out the Society's work. The hobby has many different aspects and it would not be possible to list all of the helpers individually.

The future of the Society and of the hobby in this country depends on the continuation of an active committee, supported by strong membership.

In the March-April 2001 issue, I reported on my research into EI Amateur Radio Web sites. Over the past few weeks I have been looking at international sites that are amateur radio related, and this article reports on what I found.

I have put links to all of the Web sites referred to here (and in the previous article) on the South Dublin Radio Club "links" page, which you can find by going to the club's home page at <http://www.qsl.net/ei2sdr/>

Most of the sites covered in this article are based in the USA, a reflection of the fact that the USA still dominates the Internet. The majority of the sites are non-commercial - designed and maintained by volunteers. Many are funded through banner advertising, but in general this advertising is not very intrusive.

While I show the full address of the sites reviewed here, in practice it is not necessary to include "http://" at the start of the address, as most browsers default to the http protocol.

## General Portals

Portals - sites that are in effect gateways to a range of other sites - are a good place to start when surfing the Web. The Amateur Radio community is well served with Portals, and I have listed my favourites below. Although not strictly speaking a Portal, I include qsl.net in this category, as the site plays host to thousands of club and individual amateur radio web sites.

<http://www.eham.net/>

This is a community site dedicated to amateur radio activities. It is run by about 20 amateur radio volunteers, mainly US based, each of whom looks after a specific area of the site.

The site areas are under topics like "Calendar" (DXpeditions, contests), "Product Reviews", "Propagation", "DX Spots" (from 10 different locations around the world), "Chat" and "Ham Exams". I find that the content of this site changes almost daily, and there is always something of interest. The site includes over five thousand links that can be sorted and displayed in a variety of methods - by category (such as "Clubs" or "Contests") or using a text search.

This site is well worth a visit!

<http://www.dxbands.com/>

Nigel Peacock G4KIU (who, incidentally is currently one of the administrators of the eham.net site) runs this site, which focuses on DX activity.

It includes a DX Diary, DX Spots and plenty of other DX information.

There are links to the Buckmaster call sign lookup service, and to OZ7C's QSL Manager Lookup service.

<http://www.qrz.com/>

Starting as a Web based call sign lookup

server, this site now covers a wide range of amateur radio related topics.

In a way, the content of this site is like a magazine - with miscellaneous articles, information about amateur radio, a buy and sell section and links to other radio sites.

<http://www.dxzone.com/>

This site has links, and not much else. It's worth a visit, however, as the collection of links is extensive, and they are well organised into different categories.

<http://www.qsl.net/>

This is easily the largest site devoted totally to amateur radio. It has 200,000 users, sends and receives over one million emails daily and hosts thousands of individual and club Web sites - including over 50 Irish sites.

The great thing about qsl.net is that email forwarding and Web hosting are completely free, the only proviso being that the Web sites must be mainly amateur radio related. There are plenty of "free" Web hosting services around, but you pay for them by involuntarily hosting banner advertising; there is no forced banner advertising with qsl.net.

Al Waller K3TKJ set up qsl.net about 5 years ago, and finances the service from the sale of some services (such as dial-up accounts in the USA and Canada), from his own resources and from donations. The qsl.net "group" includes <http://www.qth.net/> which hosts 900 "email reflectors" (mailing lists) covering a huge variety of amateur radio interests.

## Contesting and DX

<http://www.contesting.com/>

This is a very professional contesting site, which is run on a voluntary basis by six US hams. Its content consists of contest news and articles along with links to contest Web sites. The site also hosts archives of email reflectors on topics such as contest logs, individual contests, antennas and rigs.

Content is mainly from the USA, but there is a reasonable European content. With regular equipment reviews and information on propagation included in the site content, this site has plenty to offer all radio amateurs.

<http://oh2aq.kolumbus.com/dxs/>

This site, is operated by the members of the Amateur Radio Club of Elisa Communications Corporation, based in Finland. It provides live DX Spots for the HF and VHF bands.

As the links are mainly European, I find it more relevant than some of the USA-based DX Spotting pages.

<http://www.hornucopia.com/contestcal/weeklycont.html>

Bruce Horn WA7BNM publishes a weekly list of upcoming contests (Worldwide HF, USA VHF/UHF), which includes links to the respective contest sites. This is a 'must' if

you are a contester, and also of interest to non-contesters to tell them what bands and modes are going to be occupied by contesters in the coming weekend!

## Operating Modes and Special Interest

<http://www.morsecode.dutch.nl/index2.html>

This site, a sort of mini-Portal for Morse Code, is a "labour of love" by Wilko J. Hollemans PA3BWK. Wilko has been building up the site since 1996, and it now includes a comprehensive collection of Morse Code links - mainly for software downloads, but there are other links of general interest to CW fans. This site also acts as host for a number of CW operators' clubs.

<http://hem.passagen.se/sm0vpo/>

Harry Lythall SM0VPO/G4VVJ runs this site, also dedicated to CW, but with the emphasis on construction projects and antennas. Harry has assembled quite an amount of useful material, well worth browsing.

<http://www.aintel.bi.edu.es/psk31.html>

This site, which is maintained by Eduardo EA2BAJ, describes itself as "The Official PSK31 WWW Homepage".

It is actually quite a small site, but is a good starting point for PSK31 enthusiasts.

<http://www.digitalham.net/>

This site has links covering PSK, MFSK, RTTY, SSTV, Packet and other digital modes.

<http://www.mtn.org/handiham/>

The Courage HANDI-HAM System is a non-profit organization dedicated to Amateur Radio and computing education for people with physical disabilities or sensory impairments, such as blindness. This Web site includes a huge quantity of material of interest to blind or disabled people and to anyone, for example, who is involved in setting up a shack for them. It is a very US-oriented site, but much of the material would, I expect, be equally relevant in Europe.

<http://www.gqrp.com/>

This is the G-QRP Club site, and the Webmaster, Tony Fishpool G4WIF, has put a lot of thought into the site design. There is a "who does what" page - club officers and their contact details - which is the best I have seen. There is also a QRP Events Calendar, details of how to access the club's mailing lists and a page of links to British and international QRP sites. Finally, there are the club's Technical Pages, containing some interesting technical articles.

<http://www.uk.amsat.org/>

Amsat-UK is the organisation for amateur radio satellites in the UK. Their site has membership information, details of satellite

*Continued on page 15)*

(Continued from page 14)

frequencies and other satellite news. There are also links to other amateur radio satellite organisations.

<http://www.rsgbiota.org/>

This site has everything you need to know about the IOTA programme, including a complete list of current IOTA reference numbers and news of upcoming IOTA activations.

<http://www.mods.dk/>

This is a large collection of modifications for amateur radios by most major manufacturers. Even if you are not looking to modify your rig, this site is worth a visit as it includes some maintenance tips, such as battery replacement instructions.

<http://www.dxholiday.com/>

Describing itself as "The Ultimate DXpedition Resource", this site contains information about suitable locations for DXpeditions, Contest Expeditions and IOTA Expeditions. Kenny Silverman K2KW, who is a well known contesting DXer, has gathered together details under the headings "Rent-a-QTH" (where radio equipment is already set up) and "Ham Friendly QTH" (where previous visitors have found it possible to operate their own equipment). The locations covered range from exotic islands in the Caribbean to mainland Europe.

<http://www.g4fkh.demon.co.uk/>

This is one of a number of sites on the Web dealing with propagation. Personally I find this one the most useful, as it provides current information of likely paths throughout the day for each HF band.

### Retailers and Manufacturers

These are all, of course, commercial sites. Some are quite good, others are of a very poor standard by comparison with the non-commercial sites I have looked at elsewhere in this article.

<http://www.wsplc.com/>

This is the Waters & Stanton site, and it contains the company's full range of products - about 1,700 in all - with pictures, description and prices. It is a well maintained site, the only gripe I would have is that unnecessary use is made of images (where text would be just as effective), so navigating around the site can take a long time. There is a secure purchase area, which I have not tried, but appears to be well designed. The site also has links to manufacturers, clubs and other sites of interest; also a list of rallies.

<http://www.martin-lynch.co.uk/>

Martin Lynch's site is well laid out and easy to navigate. Products can be found by searching either by product category or by manufacturer, and online purchases can be made through a secure payments area. There are links to clubs, equipment manufacturers and other sites, including the personal sites

of some of Martin's customers.

<http://www.icomamerica.com/>

This is largely a "brochureware" site, with brochure-type information and not much else. The FAQs (Frequently Asked Questions) section might help someone who has a problem with an Icom radio, but there appears to be very little hard technical information on offer in this site. Icom have a "UK" site, which covers their product range in the UK and Ireland, but there is even less information on this than on the icomamerica site.

<http://www.sgcworld.com/>

SGC are best known for automatic ATUs, but they also manufacture transceivers and amplifiers. Their Web site is a good example of what an equipment manufacturer's Web site can offer - full details of the entire product range, downloadable copies of all their User Manuals and articles about their products. If you are thinking of buying equipment, it is helpful to be able to read the User Manual before you decide to purchase.

[http://www.kenwood.net/ama\\_page.cfm](http://www.kenwood.net/ama_page.cfm)

Kenwood have, in my view, the best site of the "big three" amateur radio manufacturers. As well as details of their products, this site has downloadable software for their rigs and Service Bulletins for their equipment. The site includes links to other sites where User Manuals for older rigs may be purchased.

<http://www.yaesu.com/amateur/>

Yaesu's site consists simply of details of its products and an email address for technical queries. Surprisingly, there is no technical help available on the site itself.

### Antennas

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<http://www.dxer.org/antpg.htm>

This is a page of links to articles about designing and making antennas and to the Web sites of antenna manufacturers. It is a convenient reference point for research on home brew or manufactured antennas.

<http://www.eznec.com/>

Sam Lewallen W7EL provides software for antenna modelling. His site has some screen shots from his modelling products and download information.

### National /Pan-National Organisations

<http://www.rsgb.org.uk/>

The RSGB Web site provides background information on amateur radio, primarily focused on UK activities. The site covers a wide range of activities, but seems to me to be more oriented towards administrative issues, like committee memberships, rather than the provision of useful information.

<http://www.arrl.org/>

ARRL have a very extensive site, mostly based around recent QST articles. Like QST itself, many of the articles relate to administrative matters concerning amateur radio in

the USA, that are probably of little interest to amateurs outside the USA. The more interesting articles are reserved for the "Members Only" section of the site.

<http://www.iaru.org/>

The International Amateur Radio Union has been the watchdog and spokesman for the world amateur radio community since 1925. Their Web site has links to the Web sites of member countries - a useful way of finding out about amateur radio anywhere in the world - and summary records of meetings of the IARU Administrative Council. There are also details of IARU contests and Band Plans.

<http://www.ero.dk/>

Most readers will probably have heard of CEPT (European Conference of Postal and Telecommunications Administrations). The radio side of CEPT is handled by ERO (European Radiocommunications Office) so their site is of more direct interest to us than CEPT's own site. Having said that, the ERO site is not easy to navigate - for an organisation in the communications business, their site does not communicate effectively with a casual surfer. The latest versions of CEPT Recommendations that affect radio amateurs (TR 61/01 - the CEPT Licence, and TR 61/02 - the Harmonised Amateur Radio examination Certificates) are available on the ERO site. On this site I expected, but failed, to find details of the implementation of these recommendations by individual countries.

<http://www.physik.uni-halle.de/Fachgruppen/Polymer/dl0mlu/hamdata/cept.shtml>

This site contains up to date details about the implementation of the CEPT licence in CEPT member countries and non-CEPT countries. Particularly useful are the prefixes to use in each province or area, frequency allocations and maximum output powers. This site is maintained by the Martin Luther University Amateur Radio Club (DL0MLU) and is an invaluable reference for anyone planning to use a CEPT licence abroad.



### WAI Ultimate Award No. 1

Noel Mulvihill EI6HW being presented with the first Worked All Ireland Award Scheme Ultimate Award by IRTS President Dave Moore EI4BZ.

# Contest Corner

With  
Dave EI4BZ  
ei4bz@eircom.net

CW Field has come and gone and entries were at an all time low. There was only one participant in each section with Joe EI7GY in the restricted and EI7M in the open section.

Has anyone any thoughts on what can be done to get more involvement?

## VHF/UHF Field Day

The VHF/UHF Field Day is still going ahead but without our neighbours on the other island, it will be a very quiet contest. Some regulars have decided to give it a miss this year.

Do note that 6 metres is included this year but will probably be removed for next year and ran as a separate contest on a date to be decided.

## IOTA Contest

The most popular contest with EI stations seems to be the RSGB run Islands of the Air event which will be held on this year on July 28<sup>th</sup> and 29<sup>th</sup>.

There are several sections in this one for the single operator – 24 hour mixed, CW or SSB and 12 hour mixed, CW or SSB.

There are currently two trophies available for single operators in the IOTA contest The IRTS DX Cup is awarded to the leading EI single operator and John Desmond EI7GL was the winner for 2000. The Hal Hodgins Key is awarded to the leading CW operator in the 12 hour CW section and the year 2000 winner was Martin EI8GP.

Congratulations to both.

Paul O'Kane EI5DI kindly donated a new cup to be known as the IRTS IOTA Cup and is for the leading EJ station in the contest. The first winner was the East Cork Group EJ7M.

## Counties Contest

The 2m Counties contest will be held on August the 26th from 1400 to 1600 local.

The new QSY rule seemed to be success in the Spring event and will be tried again in this one. We are looking forward to hearing portable stations again now that foot and mouth seems to be under control.

## SSB Field Day

The SSB Field Day will be held on September the 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> and this has been getting better support in recent years. This is a contest within the capability of all clubs and is an ideal opportunity to give practical experience to newer operators on aerial erection and operating, logging etc. As there are country multipliers in this one, knowledge of propagation is also very useful. Only one aerial is allowed in the restricted section so there is no excuse on the grounds of equipment. All you need is a rig and tuner.

If you would like to get involved but need more information, please get in contact.

73 de EI4BZ

## Contest Calendar

<b>July</b>			
30/1st	0000 - 2400	Venezuelan Independence Day	SSB
1st	0000 - 2359	Canada Day Contest	CW/SSB
<b>7/8th</b>	<b>1400 - 1400</b>	<b>IRTS VHF/UHF Field Day</b>	<b>CW/SSB</b>
7/8th	1800 - 2400	Internet 6m DX Contest	CW/SSB
14/15th	1200 - 1200	IARU HF Championship	CW/SSB
15th	0000 - 2400	Colombian Independence	CW/SSB/RTTY
28/29th	0000 - 2400	Russian RTTY WW	RTTY
28/29th	0000 - 2400	Venezuelan Independence Day	CW
28/29th	1200 - 1200	IOTA Contest	CW/SSB
<b>August</b>			
4/5th	0000-2400	Ten-Ten Int. Summer QSO Party	SSB
4th	1000-2200	European HF Championship	CW/SSB
5th	0000-2000	YO DX HF Contest	CW/SSB
11/12th	0000-2359	Worked All Europe DX Contest	CW
18th	0000-0800	SARTG WW RTTY Contest	RTTY
18th	1600-2400	SARTG WW RTTY Contest (2)	RTTY
18/19th	1200-1200	SEANET Contest	All
25/26th	1200-1200	TOEC WW Grid Contest	CW
25/26th	1600-2359	W/VE Islands Contest	CW/SSB
25/26th	1600-2200	Hawaii QSO Party	All
25/26th	1600-2200	South Dakota QSO Party	CW/SSB
<b>26th</b>	<b>1400-1600 Local</b>	<b>IRTS 2 Metres Counties Contest</b>	<b>CW/SSB/FM</b>
<b>September</b>			
1st	0000-2359	CCCC PSK31 Contest	PSK
1/2nd	0000-2400	All Asian DX Contest	SSB
<b>1/2nd</b>	<b>1500-1500</b>	<b>IARU Region 1 Field Day</b>	<b>SSB</b>
8/9th	0000-2400	Worked All Europe DX Contest	SSB
15/16th	1200-1200	Scandinavian Activity Contest	CW
22/23rd	1200-1200	Scandinavian Activity Contest	SSB

## Spring Counties Contest Results

16<sup>th</sup> April 2001

### High Power Fixed

		QSO's	Counties	Points	Total
1 <sup>st</sup> .	EI7FIB Thomas Caffrey	45	10	210	2100
2 <sup>nd</sup> .	EI5FOB John Doherty	33	12	107	1284
3 <sup>rd</sup> .	EI4IX David Cawley	28	11	111	1221
4 <sup>th</sup> .	EI2HI Hugh O'Donnell	45	11	106	1166
5 <sup>th</sup> .	EI2SDR South Dublin R.C.**	41	7	95	665
6 <sup>th</sup> .	EI4HS John Kelly	43	5	118	590
7 <sup>th</sup> .	EI8IB Brendan Kavanagh	43	5	97	485
8 <sup>th</sup> .	EI5IO Vincent Long	21	6	32	192

\*\* Operators at EI2SDR were Joe EI7GY and Nicholas EI5FLB

### Low Power Fixed

1 <sup>st</sup> .	EI3ENB Paul Norris	25	7	114	798
2 <sup>nd</sup> .	EI9CJ Tom McDermott	22	5	86	430
3 <sup>rd</sup> .	EI3FFB Eamonn Kavanagh	1	1	2	2

### FM Only

1 <sup>st</sup> .	EI4CF Fr. N.T. Foley	13	7	46	322
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Checklog from Hugh Forde EI6CPB

The portable sections were cancelled due to the foot and mouth situation.



- Dennis EI6HB in Ladysbridge has installed his new wind-up, tilt-over tower complete with new HF beam and rotator. Yagis for 6m, 2m and 70cms are due shortly.
- Brendan EI0CZ has been kept busy with the disposal of all the gear belonging to the late Tom EI9BG. The list created great interest and the last few items are listed in the members adverts in this issue
- Regretfully the Kerry Wireless Group were forced to cancel this years Marconi Day special event station normally held in Ballybunion
- The Wicklow Wireless Society also had to cancel their usual Marconi operation in Dun Laoghaire.
- Well done to Cormac EI4HQ who single handed has put a new 10m beacon on the air from his QTH in Cobh. It's on 28.209MHz and the callsign is EI0TEN.
- A new aerial is due to be installed on the Cork Repeater about now. This is a massive piece of kit from Cellwave in the U.S. and is 24' long and weights 56lbs. This should cure the present problems.
- Recently worked Fergus YV1NX formerly EI4BD from Bray in Co. Wicklow. He is 41 years in Venezuela and is very active on 15m CW.
- A web Page well worth a visit for VHF enthusiasts is that of Dave EI4IX. He is very active on both 2 metres and 6 metres and has worked some great DX. It's a handy way to keep abreast of what's happening on the VHF bands.
- We should have plenty mobile activity on HF from Limerick shortly as Tony EI9IL has invested in a new Yaesu FT100 plus the associated aerial ATAS100.
- Joe Hernon EI3HM of Inverin, Co. Galway was a referee at the World Amateur Boxing championships held in Belfast recently. 60 Countries were represented.
- Congratulations to SDR member Kevin Craig EI3FCB, who has recently passed the Morse Test and is now awaiting his new call.
- Barry Bridgeman EI2IO is well settled at his new location deep in the country north west of Cork City and is on the lookout for a tower to complete the landscaping.
- Packet links from the south to the rest of the country have been disrupted due to site works at the Limerick repeater site in Tountinna which took out the electricity supply. All should be restored by now.
- Congratulations to Thos EI7FIB and Aidan EI7ENB who passed the Morse test in Athlone at the AGM.
- Mick EI6GF and Billy EI7FJ in Wexford are presently testing their new homebrew 40 Metre beam. They are also experimenting with 70cms moonbounce.
- Congratulations to Noel EI6HW who achieved the ultimate WAI award and to Martin EI8GP and Brian G0NSL who achieved the 1000 awards. Congratulations also to Pat EI6DA who has very recently qualified for the Ultimate award.
- Heard recently on the Cork Repeater were Wexford sailors John EI5FG and Billy EI7FJ. They were on a voyage from Kilrush to Kinsale.
- Sean EI4GK and Declan EI9HQ spent the June bank holiday weekend on the Blasket Islands making over 2000 QSOs. They were lucky to get off due to the high winds.
- The Dalkey Island Contest Group will not be taking part in this years IOTA Contest but instead will operate the IRTS Headquarters Station EI0RTS in the IARU HF Championships on July 14th and 15th.
- The Galway Repeater is back to it's original position on the tower at Tonabrukey. Aengus EI4ABB and Richard EI5GC put the antenna back on top of the tower. The coverage should be much better now, and reports would be appreciated.
- Ciaran EI8IH is the proud owner of a new tower. The tower was erected with the help of Damian EI2HG, Aengus EI4ABB and Richard EI5GC. Ciaran was tea boy and supervisor. Look out for big signals on HF.
- Peter EI2IU is well known on the low bands and is now using a pair of full size home brewed phased verticals on 80 metres. Rumours are circulating of a homebrew Yagi on 40m.
- Input for this column would be appreciated.  
ei4bz@eircom.net or 021-4883555

### IRTS Press Release June 18th 2001

The Irish Radio Transmitters Society has called on the ODTR, the regulatory body for amateur radio licensing in Ireland, to implement CEPT policy and immediately reduce the Morse code proficiency speed to 5 words per minute.

Society Secretary, John Corless EI7IQ, in a letter to the authority has also called for a substantial increase in UHF allocation for amateur/experimenter use in Ireland, in line with ITU allocations.

The Harmonised Amateur Radio Examination Certificate TR 61/02 was revised in The Hague in early Feb 2001 and published by CEPT on March 7.

Under current regulations, applicants for Irish Class A licenses must pass a test of 12wpm, and a situation exists whereby visitors to Ireland with Class A licenses gained the 5wpm speed, can not operate on HF bands while in this country.

This is an unacceptable situation for the IRTS, as Ireland has proven a very popular holiday destination for amateurs.

# The Elusive Soundcard A DSP Tool in your Shack

By  
Richard Ebbs EI2ID

## Hints On How To Get Your Soundcard Working With Your Radio

After my recent article "The Reluctant CW Operator" (Echo Ireland March/April 2001) I received quite a few emails about problems with soundcards when using programs like CWGET. Most operators have a PC in the shack for logging or whatever and many would like to use the PC for decoding and sending PSK, RTTY, PACKET, PACTOR and CW. To most, the setting up of the soundcard prohibits them from getting working in these modes. You no longer need a TNC or Modem for these modes as you have a very powerful device that uses DSP technology; it's your PC soundcard.

This article is intended to try and get you going with your soundcard. From the outset let's assume you understand a little about the Windows operating system (Windows 95/98/ME) and that your soundcard is already installed and working. To test your soundcard now – click the loudspeaker icon in the bottom right system tray, you should get a 'Volume' control and when adjusted it should be heard through your PC speakers. Also read through the readme files that come with the programs and play with the programs to get used to them, checking the Help file to get a better understanding of what does what. As an example we will go through setting up a PSK system (this will also set up the system for CW, AMTOR, RTTY, PACKET and PACTOR programs that utilise the soundcard).

All soundcards have a "line input" socket. It's a 3.5mm stereo jack. For mono purposes we use only the tip connection on the jack plug (along with the earth connection of course). Don't short the two left and right inputs. Make a lead with screened cable that goes from your radio audio output (usually marked 'Line output' or 'Record output'). Don't use the speaker output direct as this is far too big a signal for the soundcard to handle; if you do have to use the speaker or headphone socket make an attenuator with resistors (about 10:1) and then don't forget to adjust the radio volume a little!). Connect the other end to the tip connection of the 3.5mm stereo jack plug, and plug into the 'line in' socket of your soundcard, (sometimes this is labelled with an 'arrow into a circle' symbol – conversely an 'arrow out of a cir-

cle' is the 'line out' socket).

Download and install a PSK program such as WinPSK or Digipan or a CW reader like CWGET. Start the program and use a smallish window size on your desktop. In most of these programs there is an RX spectrum window to display the audio input into the soundcard. If you see no signals in this window, then your lead is incorrect OR the output level from the radio is too small OR you need to set up the soundcard. Getting the lead right is half the work. Tune your radio to 14.070 USB and you should hear warbling PSK tones from your radio (or even your PC speakers). Right click on the loudspeaker icon in the system tray. Click-'open volume controls'; -'options'; - 'properties'; - check the 'recording' box and click – 'ok'. You should now have volume controls for all the inputs to your soundcard. If 'line in' has a box under it, check the box to select 'line in'. Set the level about half way, or if you can see the PSK program spectrum display, adjust the line in volume for best results. Once you're satisfied the input levels are about right, minimise the 'Recording Volume controls' window...just in case you want to adjust them again.

Now right click the speaker icon; -'open volume controls'; adjust the 'line in' control to reduce or increase the radio audio through the PC speakers, or mute it- (warning: muting some soundcards will mute the INPUT not the OUTPUT, resulting in no audio getting to the soundcard at all). So now you should be up and running on receive. Please note: this procedure may not be the same on all versions of Windows or with some soundcards, but it does give a broad idea of what to do.

To transmit you now need a lead from the soundcard to your Mic input on the radio. Again use only the tip connection of the line output socket. Set your Mic gain low at first and also you will need to make a PTT circuit as described in the Instruction Files that come with the various programs, or some transceivers will let you use VOX (Kenwood radios with a 13 pin DIN socket do not allow VOX through that socket, they only allow VOX through the Mic input). Any adjustments to be made at the PC end are similar to the receive instructions – through the 'Open Volume Controls' settings (Note: you may have to adjust

'Wave output' control to set the TX level). When you do get it transmitting load it into a dummy load first, watch the ALC meter and don't transmit over 50 watts on PSK or RTTY with 100 watt transceivers. Over driving PSK will result in you upsetting the entire PSK community! Ask your first few contacts for IMD readings (a less than –15db IMD means you're over driving the radio transmitter, so reduce Mic level or the soundcard output level). PSK and RTTY soundcard programs have powerful DSP algorithms to decode the tones – increasing TX power or Mic drive does little or nothing to get bigger s-points, it just causes QRM.

So that's it basically, if you need help with PTT circuits and leads just ask around your local Licensees, I'm sure you will find some who are experienced with soundcards and the many programs available to PC users. Once you have at least a receiving soundcard/radio system you can experiment with loads of DSP type programs available on the net. I have listed here a few interesting Websites you can download programs from.

[www.digital-laboratory.de/](http://www.digital-laboratory.de/) All sorts of DSP programs including Ham stuff.

[www.hffax.de/Software/software.html](http://www.hffax.de/Software/software.html) Loads of Ham soundcard programs and software for every mode you can think of.

[www.sonicspot.com/](http://www.sonicspot.com/) A great source of Audio programs for you music freaks.

Tried and tested programs by myself:

Win PSK.... the best PSK program.  
CWGET.... the best CW reader around.  
JVCOMM32.....very good but expensive FAX/SSTV program.

Digipan...an excellent PSK program.  
TRUETTY....good and simple RTTY program.

WXSAT.....very good weather sat recorder (then decode the saved .WAV files with SATSIGNAL.....a brilliant weather pic decoder).

I hope you get up and running OK, as PSK and RTTY are rare EI sigs!

73 de Richard Ebbs EI2ID.

## The Irish Hour - Ham Radio Style

### By Brian Stapleton W7DFO

The Ireland - North America connection via ham radio has been going on for the past few sunspot cycles. The most common gathering spot for this has been the St. Patrick frequency - 21317kHz. In the 60's, Ian EI3Y and others like Ted W2KUW, Frank K4DXW and Kevin WA5RIR were active daily on the 15 metre frequency, as propagation would permit. Apparently Dave W2APF was also a regular in this cycle. Ian is still checking in to the net today.

In the 80's Mike WB1CPJ had a gathering of Irish amateurs, which met, on 20 metres. There was a great flurry of activity when the Galway Hooker, St. Patrick crossed the Atlantic to participate in the Tall Ships parade in New York harbour.

Using the callsign EI6GH, Paddy Barry, Captain and owner established contacts with Ireland through Tony EI2CV in Cork and Mike WB1CPJ in Boston.

The voyage is documented in Paddy Barry's book Voyage.

Other Irish marine radio operators were heard over the years in the Atlantic, Caribbean and Pacific.

Sean EL0AT/MM was active along the west coast of Mexico and the United States and across the Pacific.

Tom EI8EC/MM was also active in the Caribbean running between the US Gulf Coast states and South and Central America.

The Irish hour in its present form was started in 1990 by Jim N7HKO and Amby EI4FP on 21317 kHz on Sundays at 1700 utc. This has survived to the present although we have gone through a solar minimum and have now just

passed the maximum of cycle 23. There was some activity on 28730 kHz during cycle 22's peak years but no such 10m activity took place during cycle 23.

15 metres seems to have provided the best combination of propagation together with a somewhat QRM-free channel.

Although one can argue that 20 metres might provide better reliability in years of low sunspot activity, it simply has too much QRM.

Attempts at using the 12 and 17 metre WARC bands on contest weekends have met with little success in terms of attracting a significant number of stations. Joe W2ORA is now the recognised net control with Matt W2MAT (formerly WA2QZQ) serving as the able backup. The geographic location of east coast stations with a salt water path across the North Atlantic puts them at considerable advantage in establishing contacts with the old sod compared with mid west and west coast north American stations. The net in its present form meets on Sundays at 1700 utc on 21317 kHz and has check-ins from all over North America, Ireland (EI & GI), Europe and Africa.

A number of those checking in were born in Ireland although they may have emigrated across the pond. Others are first, second and third generations Irish-Americans. Some hold both Irish and North American calls. The interest seems to be in things Irish whether it be politics, music, language, dance, culture or the weather. Occasionally a station will check in who has never worked an Irish station. W2ORA has described it as an Irish pub on the air!



Brian W7DFO pictured with IRTS President Dave EI4BZ at the Cork Rally last September.

The internet does not seem to have decreased the activity although many of those currently checking in have e-mail and correspond with one another in that manner as well. Having the internet does not seem to equal the excitement and magic of contact via ham radio.

An Irish Hour gathering (Eyeball QSO's) has been taking place at the Dayton ham radio convention for the past several years. This is largely through the efforts of Kay WA0WOF and all Irish Hour operators/SWLs are encouraged to meet at the Buckeye Belles booth around 3 pm on the Friday and Saturday of the convention. Kay also organised a dinner gathering at a Dayton restaurant on Saturday evening.

Efforts to establish links with Australia and New Zealand ex-patriots have not been fruitful but perhaps others can ass to this topic. This could be the assignment for the new century.

Brian Stapleton W7DFO  
Seattle WA

## Reading the Mail By Michael McNamara, EI2CL

Welcome to compilation #13 of "Reading the Mail" - my account of IRTS QSL Bureau activity from 6 March to 5 May 2001.

During the time hefty parcels from ARI (total 6 kilos), CRCRF (3 kilos), DARC (8 kilos), and 9A-QSL buro (3 kilos) kept up the numbers of cards.

In addition smaller packets came from EDR, REF, KARL, LRMD, PZK, PY7-buro, SARA and WF5E.

While sorting the cards the following

were noticed and thought worthy of reporting: AZ4F, A51AA, EM0RSE, ET3VSC, LY2000RMD/A, TN2FB, TU3F, ZZ7Z, ZZ500BR, 4K9W, 5C8M, 6K5SSR, 6M0MM, 8R1ZB, 9G5CW, 9X0A.

Also very obvious was the large number of cards reflecting activity with the USA and many countries in Europe on 50mhz.

For island chasers the following were noticed: BV3FQ, DQ0KBM, FG5FR,

FH/TU5AX, FR5FD, H44MS, HL4HLD, HL5FUA, IR2ANT, P29VHX, PT7BZ/PYOF, AC6SS/VE2, VK9XT, VP2V/N7MQ, 3B8/DL6UAA, 3C0R, and 9V1ZB.

Congratulations to all concerned. There will be more news from the Incoming QSL Bureau in the next edition of the IRTS Newsletter.

For now, all best wishes and good DX in 2001.

**Dayton 2001**

Rain on the opening day of the 50th Dayton Hamvention did not deter the crowd from having a good time. Show-priced bargains offered by some dealers enhanced the enjoyment and the weather improved immensely on Saturday and Sunday.

General Chairman Jim Graver, KB8PSO, said Hamvention officials believe that between 27,000 and 28,000 turned out for this year's show--nearly the same number as last year. Graver said he was happy to see a good crowd despite higher fuel prices and Friday's rain.

Unlike past Hamventions, major manufacturers had comparatively little new to offer this year.

Among the most noticeable items were: The new Kenwood TH-F6A compact triband hand-held FM VHF transceiver with wideband receive including HF; Ten-Tec's long-awaited 6 and 2-meter all-mode transceiver, the Model 526 "6N2"--the Tennessee company's first factory-built VHF radio; Yaesu's MD-200 desk mike "for elite-class Amateur Radio operators;" and Alpha Power's Alpha 6/2 maximum legal power VHF amplifier--the first amp produced under the company's new management and ownership.

Saturday morning's AMSAT forum included a telephone visit with "space tourist" Dennis Tito, KG6FZX. Tito told the gathering that Amateur Radio provided a great boost to his recent visit to the International Space Station. "The opportunity to do a phone patch five days in a row was a very important part of my flight, and I looked forward to it every day," he said. A planned ham radio contact with the ISS crew from the Hamvention did not work out, however. In addition to handling the Tito interview, Roy Neal, K6DUE, of the Amateur Radio on the International Space Station programme, also chatted with astronaut Janice Voss, KC5BTK.

Speaking at the Dayton Hamvention FCC (the US equivalent of the ODTR) forum, Bill Cross, W3TN, of the FCC's Wireless Telecommunications Bureau, said that the days of Commission-imposed regulation are past.

"Detailed regulation of the nitty gritty of communication services, including the

Amateur Service, is not in the picture," Cross said. "Rather, the FCC is shifting to strong and effective enforcement of truly necessary regulations." The FCC, he said, now plans to look to the amateur community to reach consensus on any new regulations it thinks it wants and needs. There are many it would appear in the hobby here, who wish the Irish authorities held a similar view!

Before the FCC initiates any rulemaking proceedings in the Amateur Service to change privileges, Cross said it wants to see proposals involving the implementation of "new and more modern communications technologies," such as digital. In addition, he said, any future proposal "must include all licensees, and it must include all bands," and--most important--the amateur community must reach a consensus on the topic.

**Silent Key**

The URA, Unió de Radioaficionats Andorrans, informs us of the passing of Dr. Miquel Alvarez Burgos, the first President and a founding member of the URA.

**Kachina exits the Amateur Radio HF Market**

Kachina - which made a big splash at the 1997 Dayton Hamvention when it introduced its then-revolutionary 505DSP PC-controlled Amateur Radio transceiver - has quit the amateur radio market. The Arizona manufacturer discontinued production and marketing of the 505DSP, its only amateur product, and all other HF radio products and accessories, on May 24.

Kachina Vice President Cameron Earnshaw blamed "the slowdown in Amateur Radio in general, and HF radio in particular" for the company's decision to exit the HF market. "Any radio selling for over \$1000 is a pretty hard sell these days," he said. The Kachina 505DSP, the first amateur transceiver designed solely for control via a personal computer, has retailed in the vicinity of \$2000.

"Unfortunately, the 505DSP was too expensive to produce," he told ARRL. "For that we have only ourselves to blame. Performance costs money, but you really limit your sales when you cross that \$1000-\$1200 mark."

Earnshaw said he does not know how the Japanese manufacturers continue to

produce and market top-end Amateur Radio gear. He suggested they must be doing so "out of a labour of love, supporting the losses from other more-profitable ventures."

Earnshaw said Kachina will continue to provide service and spare parts for all Kachina HF radio products for the foreseeable future and will honour all factory warranties through their duration. Amateur Radio products remaining in Kachina's inventory are being discounted through Kachina's Web site, <http://kachina-az.com>. This is an interesting and unwelcome development, and should not go un-noticed. Dealers are also disappearing, both in the UK and the US.

**Amsat announce new project**

With a modicum of success already assured for the troubled Phase 3D/AO-40 project, AMSAT-NA President Robin Haighton, VE3FRH, says his organization already is looking toward its next bird. Haighton said AMSAT's newest satellite project could be up and running within three years, possibly sooner.

In a recent interview, Haighton lauded the "fantastic reports" and "great worldwide coverage" of the AO-40 satellite. Until this week AO-40 had operated its transponders in an experimental mode with uplinks at 435 MHz and 1.2 GHz and a downlink and beacons in the 2.4 GHz band.

AO-40 ground controllers have shut down the satellite's transponders in preparation for raising AO-40's perigee by about 200 km. AMSAT-DL President and AO-40 team member Peter Guelzow, DB2OS, said transponders will remain off "until further notice." The RUDAK beacon and the 2.4 GHz middle beacon will remain up, however.

Haighton said this week that it's hoped the a slightly higher perigee will eliminate the effects of what he described as "a mysterious force" that alters the satellite's attitude when it comes through perigee.

While AMSAT continues dealing with AO-40, Haighton said it's also looking ahead to its next satellite, and design work is expected to get under way in earnest by this summer. "We would like people in apartments to have access to satellites with relatively small, easy compact equipment and not have to swing large antennas around," he said.

*(Continued on page 21)*

(Continued from page 20)

## Bits and Pieces

"We're looking at our next satellite to provide that."

As plans now stand, the new satellite could accommodate VHF users with omnidirectional antennas at perigee, plus users with good antennas at UHF as well as L band and S band. It also might employ digital modulation capabilities that, Haighton said, could make the new satellite "probably at least 10 dB better than anything we're currently using."

Like AO-40, the new satellite will not be a low-Earth-orbiting bird but have an elliptical orbit that Haighton said would be "very similar to the current AO-40 orbit." The configuration would provide up to 17 hours or so of usage out of every 24.

## BBC drops some Shortwave transmissions

The BBC World Service says it's eliminating its English short-wave transmissions to North America, Australia, New Zealand and the Pacific Islands on July 1. "The Beeb" says it will focus its delivery in English via its FM and medium-wave "re-broadcasting partnerships," together with 24-hour on-line audio service.

"We know that our listeners have migrated away from short-wave and are now accessing us on FM, via the Internet and also in some areas on satellite, cable and on mobile devices," the BBC said. "In the US, three times as many people listen to us on FM as on short-wave, and one and a half million users access on-line each month."

The BBC says the money saved by closing short-wave transmissions to North America will go towards funding its investment in future technologies.

## Squares Table June 2001

Call	2m	4m	6m	70cm	23cm	Total
EI3EBB	1	0	186	1	0	188
EI4IX	39	0	102	0	0	141
EI3IX	5	2	127	6	0	140
EI7GL	21	5	104	1	0	131
EI5FK	27	0	85	6	0	118
EI2FSB	2	0	91	1	0	94
EI5FZB	6	0	0	0	0	6
EI7FAB	0	2	2	0	0	4
EI4BZ	4	0	0	0	0	4
EI6FZB	0	1	0	0	0	1
EI7IQ	0	1	0	0	0	1
EI9IW	0	1	0	0	0	1
EI9JA	0	1	0	0	0	1

New entries and updates to Joe Fadden EI3IX at joe\_fadden@yahoo.com

## South Dublin Radio Club

### Terenure College Visit

Members of SDR recently visited the QTH of the Terenure College Radio Club.

There was a good discussion on amateur radio topics between the members of the two clubs, and arrangements were made for future get-togethers.

The Terenure College Radio Club has a permanent QTH in the grounds of the College, and many of its members are former pupils of the college.



Pictured here during the visit to Terenure are Jim Holohan EI4HH, Tom McGrath EI7HT, Rory Hinchy EI4DJB and George Adjaye EI2CPB.

### Outing to Oscar 2, Wicklow

South Dublin Radio Club took to the hills over Ballinascorney on Saturday 2nd June. The eight members were champing at the bit for some outdoor activity following the Foot and Mouth restrictions and the chance to operate the Club's latest acquisition - the Kenwood TS570DG.

Around midday the club's 2 metre frequency became alive as members pleaded on their mobiles and handhelds for directions to the proposed operating site.

Within the hour we were up and running in WAI Square Oscar 2 Wicklow with a G5RV, a 10m Vertical, a 6m Beam and an 9-element Tonna for 2m.

Conditions were good and in no time we had worked Achill Island on 6m and Rathlin Island on 40m.

The 6m opening died fairly rapidly, however, a good QSO rate was maintained on HF despite regular breaks for sustenance etc!!

At about 18.30 we called it a day and stowed the gear ready for the next outing. A good day was had by all!

SDR members who travelled were: Tom EI7HT, Tommy EI9BTB, Jim EI4HH, Nick EI5FIB, Mark EI7FNB, Tony EI7FKB, Michael SWL and Daniel SWL.

### 2m Counties Contest

Members of South Dublin Radio Club participated in the Counties Contest on Easter Monday.

Three separate stations were set up around Dublin, including the club station at the club's QTH in Rathfarnham.

Despite the absence of portable stations, good scores were achieved by the three stations, each of which operated on both SSB and FM.

Best DX from the club QTH was County Tipperary. County Down was also worked and a Galway station was heard briefly, but not for long enough to complete a QSO.

### CW Field Day

SDR member Joe Ryan EI7GY operated in the Restricted Section of CW Field Day from the Slieve Bloom Mountains, near Kinnitty in County Offaly.

He reported reasonably good band conditions on all bands except 10 metres.

### Congratulations

Congratulations to SDR treasurer Brendan EI3GV who was elected assistant treasurer of IRTS recently.

Joe Ryan EI7GY continues as membership officer of IRTS.

### Irish Radio Transmitters Society

#### Book Sales

Books, Maps, Logbooks etc.

S.A.E. to Peter Grant,  
37 Glenmore Park, Dundalk, Co. Louth

Telephone 042-9332641

### Irish Radio Transmitters Society

#### Video Library

Selection of radio related videos available.

Jim Ryan, EI3DP, 11 Knockgriffin,  
Midleton, Co. Cork.

# Letters Page

Ardfinnan,  
Co. Tipperary

Dear Editor,

As the Local news reader I was rather disturbed when I finally received this weeks script ?

Dated Sunday 29th April but actually for Sunday the 6th May it had an article on SEARG.

In its entirety it was an advert for a WEBSIGHT they have established and the facilities it provides, but I wonder if anyone else like me can see the subtle changes it is indicating in our hobby ?

Perhaps I have a longer memory than some and perhaps I long for the good old days of real Live Chats to other like minded people.

In the early days of Packet there was a great flurry of activity, then came the complaints of a lack of real live listeners and automated this and that, now we have the same with The Internet, the great activity and rush to have everything and somewhere in the dust and smoke of it all the PTT and Mike or the CW Key has got lost.

Today it is almost impossible to contact anyone unless you have the Dread Email and a PC with a Modem is essential,

The CW Key has been replaced by the QWERTY Keyboard and the Mike and Loudspeaker by the PC Monitor.

Not everyone has or even wants the Internet, Ham radio is just that, R-A-D-I-O !!!

We study and take a test, then pay for a licence and equipment to use RADIO so why do we not do just that? Use it or lose it !!! Come down to this area and listen around the frequency and if you are very lucky you may hear someone, once it was " BREAK ! " required to get a word in edgewise and now you may well be greeted by " Silence " !!!

My conscience is at me for I wonder have we taken a wrong turn some place and is this Hobby of ours really past its prime and like our forefathers soon to be found only in history book?

Do you even know where the Mike is to be found and how to use it, if so then Please DO !!!

Yes this was send Via Email but really there was little or no other option.

John Lofthouse EI3DIB.

Trying to keep the spoken word on Ham Radio ALIVE !

## Future of CW

Dear Editor,

Joe Ryan's letter in "Echo Ireland" says it all. What sensible argument can there be against reducing the Morse requirement immediately and eventually total abolition as a requirement for the "A" licence.

It's on it's way, make no mistake, Practically every national organization is committed to vote for the change, why are we any different? I don't understand the reference to S.D.R.'s unexploded bomb.

The reduction in the Morse requirement (for the time being) would benefit a great many of our members and be no disadvantage whatsoever to the rest.

Therefore I urge the committee to seek talks with the O.D.T.R. with this in mind.

Yours sincerely,

James A. Hyland EI6DSB

## Thanks for Award

5 Verbena Lawn  
Sutton, Dublin 13  
June 7th 2001

Dear Dave,

What a lovely surprise it was to be presented with the IRTS President's Cup awarded at last weeks' AGM and I wish to thank you for selecting me.

I consider myself most fortunate to have been closely associated for a short period with the workings of the IRTS Committee and during that time to have had the opportunity to meet many members at rallies and to get an overall picture of all the various types of activities that were available to enhance Club meetings during the Winter and the Field Days and Special Events during the Summer months.

Whatever the various activities I have been involved with and enjoyed it was because other EI's and Clubs had already set an example .

I wish to thank all the members of North Dublin Radio Club , past and present, all associated with the Bayside Scouts and the Blind and Disabled Group for great times in Amateur Radio and invite them to share with me the Presidents Cup for all the team effort and their contribution to keeping Amateur Radio alive.

Finally Dave, I wish to congratulate you

on your re-election as President of the IRTS for a further term and likewise welcome re-elected and new members of the new Committee.

Vy best 73  
De Joe EI4FV

## Mayo

### Radio Experimenters Network

Dear Secretary,

On behalf of Mayo Radio Experimenters Network I wish to thank the Society for the £1000 Millenium prize which was awarded to the club at this years IRTS AGM.

The money will be used to complete many of the projects which the club has undertaken recently and to reduce the financial burden of taking part in contests, field days etc. in the future.

It was great to see so many clubs around the country entering the competition and we offer our commiserations to the other participants. Our members were delighted with the good news and will continue to support the Society in the future. Again many thanks.

Gerry Cregg EI4GD  
Secretary MREN.

## New EI 10m Beacon in Cobh

The Office of the Director of Telecommunications Regulation has granted permission for a 10 metre beacon to be established in EI. The licence is initially for 3 months on a "non interference" basis after which time a permanent licence will be issued if all is satisfactory.

Transmissions commenced on Saturday 26th May.

Callsign: EI0TEN

Frequency: 28.209 MHz

Mode: A1A

Power: 25 watts (initially 5 watts for "bedding in" period)

Location: IO51UU (51.9N 8.3W, Cobh, Co. Cork)

Antenna: 4 x phased 1/4 wave verticals beaming NW, NE, SE, SW

(A temporary arrangement of a dipole will be put in place initially for a period of approximately 6 weeks)

QSL: EI4HQ via buro.

## **Fingal Radio Club EI2FRC Telford Trip**

The Telford Radio Rally takes place this year on Sunday 2<sup>nd</sup> June 2001. The rally will be in the exhibition area at the Air Museum in RAF Cosford in Shropshire, England. This large venue holds many interesting exhibits as well as the radio interest. The Fingal Radio Rally bus will depart on the morning of Saturday 1<sup>st</sup> September on the Irish Ferries new super ferry the Ulysses, from Dublin Port.

As on previous trips we will overnight in Broseley, near the famous Telford Bridge. The price of the trip includes return from Dublin; evening dinner, bed and breakfast in Broseley and a meal stop on the way back to Holyhead and entrance to the show and Air Museum.

The trip is estimated to cost about £145.00 per person. More accurate details can be received from the trip organiser Chris Yeates EI7AAB QTHR, at the club on any Monday night or telephone 01-8215145 evenings. If you have the Internet you can contact us on e-mail at [fingalradio@hotmail.com](mailto:fingalradio@hotmail.com)

Many thanks,  
Yours sincerely,  
Christopher R Yeates

### **9V Post - DXpedition Videos**

## **The FO0AAA Clipperton Island Video**

### **Now available.**

Written and produced by  
James Brooks 9V1YC.

**This video is available in  
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Declan Craig EI6FR ,  
167 St. James Rd,  
Greenhills, Dublin 12.

### **The ZL9CI Campbell Island Video**

**also available at IR£15**

**SPECIAL -  
Purchase both videos  
together for IR£20**

### **Irish Amateur Radio Association Blind and Disabled EI5HAM**

Theory Examinations were held at St. Joseph's School for Visually Impaired Drumcondra on Thursday April 26 and we are pleased that 3 students tutored by John EI6HL were successful.

Seamus McGrory from Letterkenny, Jessie McStay from Kildare and Paul were the successful students.

Another member of the Group, Padraig Naughton from Ballinasloe who was tutored by Michael; EI6AL in Athlone was also successful.

May we offer our congratulations to them on their success and this is a big morale booster for the Group and encouragement for other students at present taking the Theory Classes at St. Joseph's on Monday nights.

We wish to thank the ODTR for facilitating the Group by holding the Theory Exam at the School.

### **IRTS AGM Weekend 2002**

**Belmont Hotel  
Knock, Co. Mayo  
March 2nd/3rd 2002**

**Hosted by the  
Mayo Radio Experimenters Network**

## **Cork Radio Club**

### **CRC AGM**

The AGM of the club was held at Wilton Park House on 26th March.

Reports of the successful silver jubilee year were presented. We had a busy program over the year which included getting the ARRL millennium award as well as many other activities.

Five members are at present preparing to sit their theory exam within the next few months.

As a special recognition for his outstanding contribution to the club since its inception both as a Committee member and class teacher, John O'Sullivan EI3EC was appointed an Hon Vice President, a richly deserved honour.

The incoming committee are

Chairman	Finbarr EI1CS,
Secretary	Pat EI6DTB,
Treasurer	Dick EI6HH,
Operations Mgr.	Jeremy EI5GM,
QSL Mgr	Tony EI9ID,
CRC Award Mgr	Frank EI6EVB,
Committee	Vincent EI7HN, John EI8HS.

The club's annual Blarney Rally will be held on Sunday Sept 16th.

We look forward to another successful get together on that day.

Cork Radio Club will be putting on a display and information exhibition on amateur radio at Douglas Library Cork on Thursday 28th June as part of its "spreading the news" programme. This exhibition is being organised by PRO Liam Lyons EI2FB.

The club welcomes Anatoly LY2BCB who is here on a migrant workers visa.

## **Radio News Service**

All input for the radio news  
should be sent to:

Mark Wall EI7IS  
22 Sunshine Crescent,  
Waterford  
086-6302026 or  
[ei7is@qsl.net](mailto:ei7is@qsl.net)

Deadline 2100 on Tuesdays  
for the following Sunday

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The Hitachi KH-WS1 receiver displays a scrollable menu of available channels. You can then customise the channels the receiver shows by preselecting preferred language and programme types.

#### The WorldSpace Satellites

Upon completion, the WorldSpace network will consist of three geostationary satellites. Afristar was successfully launched in late 1988 followed by Asiastar in early 2000. Ameristar is scheduled for launch in 2001. WorldSpace satellites are located more than 35,000 km above the equator. Using powerful spot beams, each of which can support more than 50 services, the satellites transmit to three overlapping areas covering 14 million square kilometres each.

## WorldSpace Hitachi KH-WS1

#### Hitachi radio features:

WorldSpace + FM/MW/SW1/SW2  
L-band satellite 1453.384 -  
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FM: 87.5 - 108MHz

MW: 522 - 1620kHz

SW1: 2.3 - 7.3MHz

SW2 9.5 - 26.1MHz

Memory: 10 WorldSpace

30 Local Channels

Last station memory

3 Watts output (PMPO)

Built-in mono aural speaker 0.5w

Portable battery power(4 x D cells)

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Stereo headphone socket

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Port for easy attachment to PC card to

enjoy multimedia services

Easy to set up and operate

9.7 x 6.4 x 3.6" incl antenna & handle

Weighs 1.5kg without batteries

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Want an external antenna, designed specifically for the KH-WS1?

The KH-YG1 is a high quality beam with an operational frequency range up to 1492MHz.

It is supplied complete with 25 metres of cable with 'F' plugs, a low noise amplifier, mounting brackets and fitting - what more could you want!

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## Members Advertisements

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ei7ig@qsl.net - 086-8167310

#### For Sale:

Two meter 10xy Yagi  
Two meter 19 element Yagi  
70 cm 23 element Yagi  
TS520s, HF transceiver.  
Microwave Transverter 70MHz output, 144MHz input, max power in 500mw, output power 10 watts  
Linear amplifier 70 MHz with preamp, approx 50 watts output.  
Brendan at 061-354478

**Wanted:** Icom IC 100 in good condition. Details to 021 4889390 after 1800.

**For Sale:** KR 600 Rotator with 100 feet cable (same as Yaesu G650).  
AR40 Rotator with 100 feet cable and one for spare parts.  
Yaesu FC902.  
Ring 061-397004

**Home Exchange:** For weekend anywhere in Ireland. Elevated scenic views overlooking Crosshaven Village, Owenabue Estuary, Cork Yacht Club and Marinas. Cork city 12 miles.  
Contact EI2FB QTHR

## Cork Radio Club Annual Rally

**Blarney Park Hotel  
Blarney  
Co. Cork**

**Sunday  
September 16th**

**Contact Con EI7DJB  
021-4270136**